

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 044125 TOSEC 040256

43

ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:ALATHERTON, JR./HLK

APPROVED BY NEA - ALFRED L. ATHERTON, JR.

S/S - MR. ORTIZ

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Z 241651Z FEB 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY FLASH

S E C R E T STATE 044125 TOSEC 040256

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (ATHERTON, ALFRED L., JR.), MO, AG

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM: ATHERTON NORTH AFRICA TRIP:
POSSIBLE STOP IN TUNIS (S/S 7603781)

1. LARRY EAGLEBURGER INFORMS ME THAT YOU HAVE SUGGESTED I MIGHT ALSO GO TO TUNISIA, WHICH WOULD FURTHER DIFFUSE THE IMPRESSION THAT MY TRIP IS FOCUSED ON THE MOROCCAN/ALGERIAN DISPUTE OVER THE SAHARA. I THINK THIS IS A GOOD IDEA AND, SINCE THE MOROCCANS WANT ME TO COME THERE AFTER ALGERIA, IT WOULD ALSO BE LOGISTICALLY FEASIBLE IF I WERE TO BEGIN MY TRIP IN TUNIS AND PROCEED WESTWARD TO ALGERIA AND RA00AT. FOLLOWING FOR YOUR APPROVAL IS A PROPOSED INSTRUCTION TO EMBASSY/TUNISIA ASKING THEM TO RAISE THIS QUESTION WITH GOT.

2. BEGIN MESSAGE:

SECRET/NODIS

ACTION: TUNIS IMMEDIATE NIACT

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INFO: ALGERIA IMMEDIATE, RA0AT IMMEDIATE

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (ATHERTON, ALFRED L., JR.), MO, AG

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ATHERTON VISIT TO TUNIS

MOROCCANS HAVE ASKED THAT ATHERTON VISIT MOROCCO AFTER HIS VISIT TO ALGERIA, AND HE IS PRESENTLY REVISING HIS ITINERARY TO TRAVEL FROM ALGERIA TO MOROCCO EVENING OF MONDAY, MARCH 1. THIS OPENS UP POSSIBILITY OF HIS ALSO VISITING TUNISIA IF GOT WISHES, LEAVING WASHINGTON AFTER-NOON OF WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, ARRIVING TUNIS LATE MORNING FEBRUARY 26 AND DEPARTING TUNIS AFTERNOON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, FOR 3:00PM ARRIVAL IN ALGIERS. YOU SHOULD THEREFORE URGENTLY APPROACH GOT ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

A. SINCE NOTIFYING YOU OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON'S PLANNED VISIT TO ALGERIA AND MOROCCO, THERE HAVE BEEN CHANGES IN HIS SCHEDULE WHICH WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO ALSO VISIT TUNIS PRIOR TO HIS OTHER TWO STOPS. THIS WOULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ONE OF OUR PERIODIC EXCHANGES OF VIEWS WITH GOT, WHICH WE HIGHLY VALUE, ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST INCLUDING BILATERAL RELATIONS, THE STATUS OF OUR MIDDLE EAST PEACEMAKING EFFORTS, AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS THE SAHARA SITUATION.

B. IF A VISIT AT THIS TIME WOULD BE AGREEABLE AND CONVENIENT FOR THE TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT, SECRETARY KISSINGER WOULD BE PLEASED TO ASK MR. ATHERTON TO MAKE SUCH A VISIT.

WE OBVIOUSLY NEED URGENT REPLY SO THAT ATHERTON CAN FINALIZE HIS TRAVEL PLANS. PLEASE TELL GOT WE REGRET THIS SHORT NOTICE AND MAKE CLEAR THAT WE ARE NOT PRESSING THEM; DECISION IS OF COURSE ENTIRELY UP TO GOT.

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SHOULD TUNISIANS BE AGREEABLE TO ATHERTON VISIT, OUR INFORMATION IS THAT HE COULD ARRIVE TUNIS VIA AIR FRANCE FROM PARIS AT 11:15AM THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, AND DEPART SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28 VIA SYRIAN/IRAQ AIRLINES 355 AT 2:55PM. WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION THAT THIS FLIGHT IS CURRENTLY RUNNING OR SUGGESTIONS AS TO POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES.

END MESSAGE.

3. RECOMMENDATION:

THAT YOU APPROVE THE ABOVE MESSAGE TO TUNIS.

APPROVE . DISAPPROVE

4. DRAFTED: NEA:ALATHERTONJR; APPROVED: NEA:ALATHERTONJR.

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